

The Honourable *Vol 3*
CHIEFTAINS

OF THE

8142. b. 6

Highland-Clans,

VINDICATED,

From the false Aspersions, and scurrilous Reflections,
thrown upon Them, by Ridpath the scandalous and
justly condemn'd Libeller. * (G.) Pamphleteer.



L O N D O N, Printed;
Re-Printed at *Edinburgh* by *James Watson*, and Sold at his Shop, next
Door to the *Red-Lyon*, opposite to the *Lucken-Booths*. 1713.

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April 12th. 1713.

SIR,



LL good Men of our Nation are very sorry, that the worst of our Renegades should not only meet with Reception and Entertainment in *England*, but should dare to distinguish themselves in the most furious Manner, both against the Crown and the Church, and to be the fiercest forlorn Partisans of Sedition.

The Author of the *Flying Post*, fled from his own Country, a long time ago, to avoid Punishment, as an Incendiary in the Literal Sense. And having got Sanctuary and Shoes in *England*, has been for many Years exerting his Talent and Character of Incendiary, in a much higher and more dangerous Manner, as one of the most desperate Engineers of the general Flame of the whole Island; preparing and throwing his combustible Stuff daily, with such new Degrees of Insolence and Fury, in Defiance of Authority, as well as of Truth, that I do not believe there can be found, in any Age, or History, or Government, nor even in any Time of Anarchy it self, such an Instance or Example of Turbulent Madness; flying in the Face of every Thing that is valuable or sacred amongst Mankind; desperately tearing up the very Foundations of all Order and Settlement; railing at all that is good, and spitting perpetual Fire, without sparing his own Country, which even the worst of Refugees generally use to do.

Tho' the wild Extravagance of his Phrenzy may be thought a sufficient Answer to all the scandalous Reflections and Forgeries he advances; and tho' he is now under the immediate Hand, as well as the Eye of the

Govern-

Government ; yet since his raging Impudence encreases, and lest the Silence that has been intended for his Cure, or a total Neglect of his repeated Calumnies, should give the least Colour of Truth to his Aspersions, I shall now and then beg the favour of a little Room in your Paper for some short Animadversions on this infernal Fury and his malicious Fictions.

At present I beg leave to take Notice of the Indignities, which at the Distance at which he is, he dares to cast on a brave Body of Men, and their Loyal Address to the Queen ; I mean, the Heads of the *HIGHLAND* Clans, who address'd Her Majesty. Nothing but his repeated Provocations in Print, could extort an Answer in this Manner ; nor could anything but the Dreggs and Off-scourings of his Country be so mean, to reflect on a Body of Men who have got themselves the Esteem of all Ages, by their Courage and Loyalty.

But it is this very Loyalty that provokes him. And yet it is this very Loyalty, and their Strength and Power, which this Author extoll'd, and magnify'd, when he was writing against the Union ; tho' now he writes for that very Union, pleading it for a Defence of all the Excesses of Presbyterian Fire and Inquisition. So very ill Memories have those Wretches who have neither Shame nor Honour.

He says, the Address was sign'd by ten Persons only, and that four of them are Papists. When he examines a little better, he will find the Computation to be false ; a greater Number of Signers, and fewer Papists : But Popery is still the threadbare ridiculous Cant that introduces every Presbyterian Villany and Fiction ; and yet themselves have borrowed their most favourite and distinguishing Principles from the worst of Papists, the *Jesuits*. There are very few of all the *HIGHLAND* Gentlemen but who are Protestants ; but as they are for Monarchy in the State, they are not for a Republick in the Church ; but for Order and Subordination in every Society, Civil or Ecclesiastick. And to be sure, whoever is for that, if you will take our levelling Saint's Word for it, must needs be a Papist. A Bill of Exclusion, from the very Name of Protestant, must pass upon every Man that is not a Leveller ; yet the *Pope* himself cannot be more absolute nor lawcy as a Presbyterian Assembly ; or, as a Presbyterian *Pope* in every Parish.

One of the chief Objections of the *HIGHLANDERS* against the Presbyterians, is their reviving the rebellious Maxims of their Forefathers, and the Hypocritical Jargon of the Days of *Cromwell* ; the best Action of whose Life was, the Overturning the Power and Pride of the Presbyterians, who

set him up, hoping to command him. The just and general Fate of Rebels to be so served.

He says, That 4 of the Subscribers are of one Name. And pray, where is the Absurdity or Reflection of that? If he had any Information, he would know that the Clan, he points at, is one of the most numerous in all the Country, and some of them have plentiful Estates, as several others of the Subscribers have, whatever the Impudence of this little Father of Lyes would falsely insinuate.

And tho' some of them hold some Parts of their Estates of other Superiors; it is a very false Consequence, that therefore they are under their Command. I shall not pretend to discover who it is he means by this Insinuation; but shall only tell him in general, that whenever any such Superior attempted against the King, who is the Supreme Superior over all, and for whose Service every Tenant whatsoever is, these Gentlemen knew very well how to serve the King against him who pretended to give himself those Superior Airs; and it will be so again, if any such unjust and unnatural Command should ever happen for the future.

He insinuates, That the three independent Companies are sufficient to keep the Peace of the *Highlands*. I must tell him in the first Place, That it is a much stronger Tye and Security that keeps the Peace of the Country; and that is, Their Respect and Affection to the Queen and Her Authority. 2dly, This Author seems to be wholly ignorant that these three Companies consist of *Highlanders*; who watch very carefully against private Irregularities and intestine Disorders; sometimes in other Parts of the Country, as well as in the *Highlands*. But 3dly, this slighting Insinuation must appear very ridiculous to those who reflect, that the Chief of one of those Clans, yet alive, and his Fellowets only, in the Time of the Rebellion under Cromwell, bridled the Garrison of *Inverlochy*, which in the Beginning, consisted of Two Thousand Men; rendered it for the most Part useles; had many Actions and Skirmishes with them, and frequently kept them from getting Provisions.

As to his most ridiculous magnifying the Power of one certain Chief of the *Highlands*; all I shall say, shall be in short, that I believe that Noble Person will give him very little Thanks for his impudent and odious Comparisons; and that this sneaking Author could not do a greater Indignity to that great Man (much greater in himself than in his Following) than by blackening him by the stinking Smoak of his Incense, and the contemptible daubing of his Flatteries and Fictions. That Chief is wiser than to suffer himself to be transported beyond his just Bounds, by any

any thing of that Air or Vanity which this ignorant Flatterer would inspire.

King *William*, whom this Author pretends to adore, and extols upon all Occasions, had, in this Case of the *Highlanders*, the Misfortune to be of a different Opinion. Tho' he had in his Interest not only the Chief we have just now mention'd, but the whole Presbyterian Strength, and the Vote of our Convention; and after *England* had submitted, thought it necessary to send a considerable Body of Forces from *England*, besides those that were raised in *Scotland*, to oppose the *Highlanders*; yet Five or Six of the Subscribers of the *Addells*, with some of their Followers, having the Great and Valiant *Dundee* at their Head, beat those regular Troops, and dispers'd 'em at *Gilliecrankie*. And after Three Years War, and even after that *Ireland* was reduced, he offer'd the *Highland* Clans advantageous Conditions, such as Titles of Honour, Money, &c. as can easily be prov'd by the Commissions given for that Purpose.

I hope this one Instance is enough to expose both his Ignorance and his Malice. And in general, his Boasts and Threatnings as to the mighty Strength of his formidable Presbyterians, meet with the just Contempt and Derision of this Country, which knows him very well. For their modern Trophies, I desire he may go and gather them at *Bothwell-Bridge* and *Pentland-Hills*. And I hope he will also enquire, How a few Hundreds of the *Highlanders*, sent by King *Charles II.* march'd through all the Colonies of the Saints, from one End to the other, and in the Heat of their Spirit of Insurrection, asswag'd their Pride and confounded their Devices. And afterwards, in their new Commotions, how that gallant Gentleman, whom we have mention'd, the Lord *Dundee*, with a small Handful of Troops, settled and kept the Peace of that Stiffneck'd Country and Generation; and brought the most Part of them to the Episcopal Churches, and to Occasional Conformity; which at other times they used to call, *Bowing the Knee to Baal*.

And to go a little higher in their Rebellions, I desire he may take a View of the Six Battles fought by THE GREAT *MONTROSE* against their united and often recruited Strength. Where that transcendent Hero, with small Handfulls of the *Highlanders*, routed and chased their disciplin'd and regimented Troops, who were always Three to One of his, and sometimes more; and well pay'd, provided, and supported by the prevailing Usurpation. By such glorious Actions, and many other noble Qualities, he justly acquired, over all *Europe*, the illustrious Title of THE GREAT *MONTROSE*. And in this never-dying Name is

is laid up an everlasting Stock of Honour to his Family, if they imitate his Virtues : Or of Shame, if they deviate from his Maxims and Example.

I think I have said enough of Presbyterian Triumphs.

Our new *Cromwellian* Author is highly offended that the *Highlanders* should assert the Hereditary Right of the Crown and Monarchy, as it were a Crime to speak in the Language of all the Laws, and of the History, of all former Generations. But this profound Statesman would have us to be wiser than all our Ancestors, and to remove the Land-Marks which our Forefathers have settled. He would have us to break down the Banks, which have been the Workmanship of God and Nature, that the first inundation may drown the Plains and destroy the Country.

The *Highlanders* reckon it both their Glory and their Interest to adhere to the Hereditary Wisdom and Dignity of their Ancestors, who have always thought it below 'em to be subject to any but their original Superior, and the ancientest Family in the Universe. They think they cannot err, whilst they keep to the beaten Road, and the constant Channel of Two Thousand Years bypast. And they glory in that, which this new-fashion'd and shallow, tho' conceited Politician, thinks to be their Shame.

Since the general Consent of Mankind, the Knowledge, and Belief, and Veneration of a Supreme Being, amongst all Nations, and all Ranks of Men, in all Ages, is thought to be the best, because the plainest Argument for the Existence of a Deity. Shall not the Consent and Submission of so many Ages of our own People be thought a sufficient Demonstration for the Being and Nature of our own Government, and of the natural and legal Course of our most ancient and inviolable Monarchy, which has been the Security as well as the Glory of an ancient People?

By the Wisdom and Goodness of Divine Providence, and by the Wisdom and Justice of our Ancestors, the natural Course of this illustrious River did still prevail, and got the Better of all Republican Attempts and Innovations. And to this Purpose, I shall beg leave to mention a very material Observation, that was made, when K. James VI. of Scotland, came peaceably to the Inheritance and Possession of the Crown of England ; and of which, Sir George Mackenzie takes particular Notice, That, tho' sometimes there had happen'd great Confusions, both in England and in Scotland, on the Account of Succession ; tho' there had been great Convulsions and Parentheses of Government ; and sometimes the one, and sometimes the other Nation had been brought to the very Brink of Sinking, under the most bloody and most dismal Calamity of all Calamities, a disputed

disputed Succession ; yet that the infinite Goodness of Providence had always brought Things back to their natural Channel, and King James VI. was the true and lineal Heir and Successor of all the Races of Kings that ever had reign'd in the Island ; not only of the *Scottish* and *British*, but of the ancient *British*, of all the Seven Saxon Races, and of the *Danish*, and of the *Norman*.

And may his Line continue to the End of the World.

It is very natural for the ancient *Highlanders* to be faithful to this Ancient Hereditary Race of Sovereigns, whose Right it is, and whose Glory our incomparable Queen has rais'd to a new and transcendent Degree of Splendor. The *Highlanders* are a brave and honourable Body of Men ; they are train'd up and bred to Arms from their Infancy ; they have a peculiar natural Sagacity, which gives them always a Presence of Mind in Action : And by this vigorous Alacrity and undaunted Courage, they have very often done Wonders, against much superior Numbers of what we call disciplin'd and regular Troops. And they have a singular Elevation and Grandeur of Mind and Spirit, which carries them through all Difficulties.

In short, they are in all Respects whatsoever, very much above the Barkings of this enraged and raving Author, who lives by Calumny, and who affects to distinguish himself by an extravagant Blaze, that he may sell his mercenary Pen the dearer.

But I shall enlarge no further at present in the Vindication of a Body of Men who have always vindicated themselves, and can do it still in another Manner than can be done on Paper. The Quarrel that these turbulent and visionary Republicans have to them is, their unalterable Loyalty, and that it is known they will be as good as their Word, and be always ready to serve the Queen in the Terms of their Address, with their Swords in their Hands.

F I N I S.



